



## Pinnacle

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Editor: Marissa Smith

### Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

#### Executive Director's Report



- ♦ Some of our staff participated in the annual Community Health Screening offered by Health Smart sponsors in **Hall County**.
- ♦ We keep adding participants to our flyover project that will obtain aerial photography. It is scheduled to begin on January 2, 2015 according to Faith. This will be the largest single project ever attempted by this organization.
- ♦ We welcome Bill Lewis back as **Dahlonega's** Interim City Manager.
- ♦ We also welcome **Royston's** new City Manager, Ed Andrews.
- ♦ Be sure and secure your tickets for the GMRC Annual Meeting to be held at the Dillard House Conference Center in **Dillard, GA** on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Contact Peggy Lovell at 770-538-2607 to place your order. We also remind our City and County

elected officials to consider purchasing tickets for your state leaders and your private sector members. A fun time will be had by all.

- ♦ Welcome aboard to Brian Johnson, who has replaced Jim Frederick as the State Planning Director for Department of Community Affairs (DCA). He was educated at Young Harris and UGA, so we have local connections to this important individual. He, along with Adam Hazell and I, will be touring the upper part of our region during 2014.
- ♦ Best wishes to Heather Feldman who was elected by her GARC peers to serve as the state Chair of the Economic Development Professionals. What a positive leadership position for Heather and our organization!!
- ♦ In our Planning Department, Adam Hazell and Caleb Davidson have just completed DCA training for Planning staff members. Also, congrats to Joe Rothwell and his wife Traci on the birth of their son Oliver Clark Rothwell. Oliver was born on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:27am weighing 8lbs 7.5oz and 22 inches long.
- ♦ Our Finance and Workforce Development staff are preparing for the annual visit (week-long) by the auditors from the Office of Workforce development. They are expected to be with us the last week of October. This one is always tough but thorough. Becky and her staff are to be complimented for being ready for their visit.

#### Employee Spotlight



**Dawn Bruce works as a Receptionist/Intake Assistant for the Workforce Development Department at our office on Hilton Drive. She was previously employed with Workforce Development under the Department of Labor. Dawn originally hails from Albany, NY but moved to Georgia where she graduated from North Hall High School. Dawn's pride and joy are her two sons, Cody and Dillian and the newest addition to her family, her grandson named Kolten. Dawn loves NASCAR—particularly Kevin Harvick, and camping at Cades Cove with her dogs Abby and Ranger when she gets any free time.**

## Economic Development

- ♦ GMRC held their Annual Economic Development Retreat on October 25th. Thank you to Dwayne Dye with **Hart County** Industrial Building Authority (IBA) for hosting the meeting.



- ♦ Congratulations to Lyn Allen on her retirement from the **Franklin County** Industrial Building Authority!!!
- ♦ Economic Development Staff is working on the following projects:
  - (4) CDBG-EIP Applications
  - (2) ARC Applications
  - (1) USDA – RDLG Application
  - (3) Assistance to Firefighter Grants
  - (3) Recreational Trails Grants



## Workforce Development

- ♦ Ten youth received credentials, either a diploma or certificate.
- ♦ The tutoring program at **Gainesville** High School began with nine active youth.
- ♦ The **Lumpkin** Youth Employment Apprenticeship Resource (YEAR)/ Work based learning program began at **Lumpkin County** High School.
- ♦ September was a great month for community events! The Mobile Training Units (MTUs) attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual INK Preparedness Fair and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Recovery Month Celebration at Laurel Park in **Gainesville**.
- ♦ The MTU staff participated in the Main Street Job Fair, which was held at the **Cornelia** Community House on September 16<sup>th</sup>. The event was a huge success, per the Department of Labor (DOL) a total of 147 Job Seekers and 30 Employers were in attendance.
- ♦ In partnership with the DOL and three **Cumming** area Walmart stores that are looking to hire over 100 people, the MTU staff participated in a mass hiring event held at Lanier Tech's **Forsyth** Conference Center. Over 30 individuals utilized our services at the event, receiving assistance with online applications, writing and updating resumes, and learning about WIA tuition assistance programs.

RESPONSES	
Total Job Searches	131
Total Job App	65
Total Resumes	35
Total Interviews	1
Total Interest Survey	3
Total Training Sessions	3
Total Testing	0
Total Typing Assessments	0
Total GMRC Info	103
Total Unemployment Claims	0
Computer Trainings	0
Microsoft Office Classes	0
GED assistance	0
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>341</b>

Numbers broken down by responses for the 148 individuals that came aboard the MTUs.

RESPONSES PER COUNTY	
Banks	6
Dawson	4
Forsyth	45
Franklin	17
Habersham	27
Hall	97
Hart	13
Lumpkin	10
Rabun	27
Stephens	24
Towns	6
Union	8
White	2
Other	55

Numbers broken down by responses for each GMRC County.

### Planning Services

- ♦ **Forsyth County** has adopted the annual update for their Capital Improvement Element (CIE).
- ♦ **Dawson County** has submitted their annual CIE update for State review and approval.
- ♦ **Franklin County** has submitted their 5-year Comprehensive Plan update.
- ♦ Providers and sponsors of the rural transit programs throughout the region will be utilizing a new software to request and record passenger service. Staff from local stakeholders and participating governments were trained in the TRIPS system last month.
- ♦ Local personnel from around the region participated in the State's two-day Community Planning Institute held at Unicoi Lodge. Earning their certificates were Rush Mauney and Connie Tracas from the **City of Cleveland**, Tom O'Bryant and Harry Barton from **White County**, and **GMRC staff** Adam Hazell and Caleb Davidson.

### Order Your Tickets Now!

- ♦ It is that time again! Our GMRC Annual Meeting is quickly approaching. If you know of someone who would like to sponsor, or if you are in need of tickets, please contact Peggy Lovell at 770-538-2607 or at [plovell@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:plovell@gmrc.ga.gov). Remember, a limited number of tickets are available!



## SAVE THE DATE

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission  
Annual Meeting

Dillard House Conference Center  
December 5, 2014  
Reception - 4:45 p.m.  
Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Tickets - \$40.00

Contact Peggy Lovell at  
770-538-2607 with any questions.

### Information Services

- ♦ Faith Bryan attended the 2014 Georgia Geospatial Conference held in Athens at the Classic Center. It was sponsored by Georgia URISA, ASPRS Mid-South, Geospatial Information and Technology Association (GITA) Southeast and Surveying and Mapping Society of Georgia (SAMSOG). Wide range of topics were discussed with a lot of useful information. Our own David McKee, Planning Director for **Dawson County** gave a presentation on Land Application of BioSolids.
- ♦ Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) recently received a grant from Economic Development Administration (EDA) to establish and operate the Georgia Regional Commission Geospatial Network and associated Geospatial Information Office (GIO) for the State. This Network and GIO will coordinate and partner with local governments, as well as with state and federal government agencies, to compile critical base maps and geographic, economic and demographic information.
- ♦ The FY2014 CarFit grant ended on September 30<sup>th</sup>. This past year was GMRC's third year of operating this grant in our region for the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Thirty seven CarFit Events were held around the region and assisted many seniors with being properly fit for their vehicle. Thank you to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety for supporting our region with this grant for three years in a row. Kudos to Lindsay Addison, Walt Snelling and Carol Snelling for doing a wonderful job for GMRC this year!




  
 Helping Mature Drivers Find Their Safest Fit



# UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
October 30	3:30pm	WIA Board Meeting	Forrest Hills Conference Center—Dahlonega
	5:00pm	GMRC Executive Meeting	Forrest Hills Conference Center—Dahlonega
	5:30pm	CLEO Meeting	Forrest Hills Conference Center—Dahlonega
	6:00pm	GMRC Council Meeting	Forrest Hills Conference Center—Dahlonega
November 20	6:00pm	GMRC Council Meeting	City of Dawsonville—City Hall
November 27	————	GMRC Office Closed	Happy Thanksgiving!
November 28	————	GMRC Office Closed	Happy Thanksgiving!
December 5	4:45pm	GMRC Annual Meeting Reception	Dillard House Conference Center
	6:00pm	GMRC Annual Meeting	Dillard House Conference Center
December 10	10:00am	GMRC City/County Managers Meeting	Jaemor Farms—Lula
December 24	————	GMRC Office Closed	Merry Christmas!
December 25	————	GMRC Office Closed	Merry Christmas!

\*\*\*\*Sponsorships needed for GMRC Council Meetings in 2015. Please call or email Danny Lewis at 770-538-2606 or [dlewis@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:dlewis@gmrc.ga.gov)\*\*\*\*

## Around the Region

*The Beauty of Our Region Continues!*



Dawsonville Moonshine Distillery



Cumming Fair & Festival



Downtown Lavonia

